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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/673,999 | 09/30/2003 | Kurt A. Dobbins | 026215-00006 | 2807 |
| 4372 | 7590 | 06/06/2007 | EXAMINER | |
| ARENT FOX PLLC | | | BURGESS, BARBARA N | |
| 1050 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W. | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| SUITE 400 | | | 2157 | |
| WASHINGTON, DC 20036 | | | | |
| MAIL DATE | | DELIVERY MODE | | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/673,999 | DOBBINS ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Barbara N. Burgess | 2157 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ikeda et al. (hereinafter “Ikeda”, US Patent 6,788,683 B1).

As per claim 1, Ikeda discloses a method for transmitting data according to a flow table, a flow key, and one or more variables comprising:

masking the flow key according to the one or more variables (Ikeda teaches an extracted packet header from an IP packet is masked with the retrieval flag to create a post-mask retrieval key and used for flow identification) (column 3, lines 11-15, 25-30, 64-66);

indexing the flow table with reference to the masked flow key (Ikeda teaches several tables used for obtaining flow information according to the masked key. A content-addressable memory (CAM) is used for flow identification as a flow retrieval table. A retrieval flag table stores numeric values and flow identification results corresponding to a post-mark retrieval key. A flow action table storing flow information according to the combination of a Flow Index and Forwarding Index used as the retrieval key) (column 3,

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lines 26-30, 54-56, column 4, lines 52-55, column 8, lines 56-60, 66-67, column 10, lines 32-39);

looking up a flow entry in the indexed flow table (Ikeda teaches retrieving a flow retrieval corresponding to a post-mask retrieval key output from the retrieval flag table from a flow retrieval table) (column 5, lines 60-67);

transmitting data according to the flow entry (Ikeda teaches retrieving flow action information from a flow action table wherein the information including setting quality of service (QoS), processing the IP packet based on the flow action information from the flow action table to create a transmission IP packet and transmitting the IP packet to its destination) (column 6, lines 10-19).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent Publication 2003/0174718 A1 to Sampath et al. (Packet field values are obtained by applying a filter mask to the particular packet and a selective action is obtained from a policy table based on the packet field values)

US Patent Publication 2003/0043802 A1 to Yazaki et al. (Router performing packet processings with respect to each flow detected according to the flow identifier)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barbara N. Burgess whose telephone number is (571) 272-3996. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00am-4:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Ettinene can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Barbara N Burgess
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

May 29, 2007

